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Mr. Hardy's

Influence

And Seniority

Attack on His Record Tends to Cut Two Ways

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WASHINGTON.

The Second District's Republican candidate for Congress, Wayne Lustig, 29-year-old Norfolk attorney, has attacked the Democratic incumbent's "tremendous liberal tendencies" and indicated that in the campaign ahead he will have much to say about his voting record.

Fair enough, although he may have trouble convincing the voters that Rep. Porter Hardy Jr. is a wild-eyed liberal because he is surely not, unless the standard of comparison is Senator Barry Goldwater in his sterner and more uncompromising moments.



Carter
example.

Nevertheless, Lustig, who has said Goldwater would be acceptable to him as his party's presidential nominee, can wage an honest and legitimate campaign on the Hardy voting record. Presumably, he disapproves of some if not all of the things Hardy has supported — Federal aid to higher education, urban renewal and public housing, tax reduction (when budget deficits continue), and foreign aid, for

Hardy, if he feels the spur of the young Republican's challenge, can go beyond a defense of his voting record and cite his seniority and committee positions. This, too, will be legitimate; congressional seniority isn't quickly gained, being rather an accretion that builds up slowly like moss on the shady side of a tree.

He would be the sixth-ranking Democrat (out of 22) on the Armed Services Committee in the next Congress, assuming everyone now ahead of him returns except Rep. Carl Vinson of Georgia, the chairman who is retiring at the age of 80. Hardy would be No. 5 on the Government Operations subcommittee out of 19 Democrats. However, it is his position on the Armed Services Committee that has the most direct relationship to the district's interests.

Hardy's influence on his committee has been substantial and is almost certain to increase. Congressional committee chairmen sometimes are thought of as absolute monarchs, but that's not quite the way it works. A strong chairman can be more nearly likened to the No. 1 man of an oligarchy; if he is to be strong he usually must have the support and confidence of other senior members of his committee. Carl Vinson has had the reputation of being one of the most autocratic (and wisest) of the chairmen, but in truth he has shared his power.

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